

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 9, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Barron was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Clerk Treasurer Eugene Guernsey gave the Oath and provided the Swearing in of the new Police Officers:

Nicholas H. Feliciano

Eric J. Reid

The Town Council congratulated and welcomed the new Police Officers.

The Election of Town Council Officers for 2018

Mr. Pettit made a motion to nominate Richard Hardaway as Town Council President for 2018. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. President Hardaway expressed his appreciation to the Town Council members for having confidence in his position as Council President over the past few years. President Hardaway looks forward to having another great year.

2018 Committee, Board & Commission appointments

President Hardaway said the Town Council was provided the list of the 2018 appointments. President Hardaway reviewed the following changes:

Council Affairs - LaMarca, Chairwoman

Elections & Public Relations – Uzelac, Chairwoman

The remaining appointments stayed the same as prior year.

Mr. Pettit discussed a matter related to Phase II for subdivision of Hunter's Glen. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to waive the filing fees. Hunter's Glen will still be responsible to pay for the public hearing notices and certified mail. The motion seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway said the following request was withdrawn by the Petitioner.

Petitioner:	Taher K. Ashkar
Owner:	Roseff LLC by Kin Properties Owner
Request:	Special exception approval
Purpose:	Proposed used car lot
Location:	6096 Broadway

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to lift the table request for this petitioner. Ms. LaMarca seconded the motion to lift the table request. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the withdrawal request from the petitioner. Mr. Minchuk seconded the motion to withdraw. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated January 9, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 26, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk reminded residents not to have any vehicles parked on the streets if more than 2 inches of snowfall. Discussion followed related to this matter.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac congratulated Joe Svetanoff on his position of Merrillville Town Attorney. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the contract for legal services with Kopka Pinkus Dolin PC. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the lease space at Fire Station 74 (north station) to Superior Ambulance. Mr. Minchuk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Chief Petruch provided the 2017 crime statistics for the Police Department. He commented that his Officers are doing an outstanding job and that last year was one of the lowest crime rates for the Town of Merrillville. President Hardaway and the Town Council expressed their appreciation for the outstanding job that all of the Police Officers are doing.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich presented the Parks Department 2017 report to the Town Council. Ms. Orlich provided a detailed overview for each of the Capital Improvements for the Parks Department. Ms. Orlich said that the Town of Merrillville will be the only location within the state of Indiana to have a Solar Bench located on a trail. The Solar Bench will be located just north of 91st Ave and will allow users to sit and relax on a trail and charge a phone or tablet at the same time. Ms. Orlich continued to review the details of the 2017 Parks report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron was absent. Mr. Lake said construction has been initiated for the Sunset Road drainage improvement project. The plans are in the process of being finalized for the Independence Street drainage improvement project. Mr. Lake said they are preparing for a 5 year cycle audit with FEMA which will be a 2 day audit in April 2018.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 18.01: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council, adopting a two (2) year capital improvement plan for the purpose of receiving the town's distribution of Lake County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) funds. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Spires spoke about the current contract expiring with Waste Management and the process involved related to the extension procedures. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall offices closed January 15, 2018 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
(except for Emergency Services)
Plan Commission meeting, January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, January 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Town Council meeting, January 23, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Minchuk made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer